



Centennial Projects & Programs Approved for Fiscal Year 2008

EXAMPLES

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Stewardship

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

States: West Virginia (also in CT, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, TN, VA, VT)

Partners: Appalachian Trail Conservancy and North Carolina State University

Total Cost: \$238,000

Implement an Appalachian Trail Environmental MEGA- Transect Program

The Appalachian Trail, which runs from Georgia to Maine, provides a unique scientific opportunity to capture a snapshot of the environmental health of the entire Eastern United States. Scientists from across governmental agencies, educational institutions, and citizen volunteers will monitor and record the wildlife found along the entire Appalachian Trail.

Using the Appalachian Trail as a scientific transect, or sampling area, scientists will be able to use the information collected on wildlife populations as an early warning system for possible environmental changes along the entire East coast.

The Appalachian Trail Environmental MEGA- Transect will be an opportunity to engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared stewardship of the trail and its wealth of natural resources; increase the number of volunteers involved with the trail; and tell the story of the health of the Appalachian Trail and surrounding lands to visitors, neighbors, and the American people.



Coyote caught on film by remote camera during the predator survey pilot program.



Harpers Ferry Middle School students and parents learning to use global positioning system (GPS) on the Appalachian Trail.

Stewardship

Padre Island National Seashore

State: Texas

Partners: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Shell Marine Habitat Program, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Friends of Padre, Inc. and Unilever

Total Cost: \$222,980

Restore the Endangered Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle for the 21st Century

Padre Island National Seashore is the premier nesting grounds in the United States for the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle. This year the park will be able to enhance re-establishment efforts that have been underway since 1978, in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other partners in the United States and Mexico, to ensure that this species survives through the 21st century.

The park will engage the public in observing and relocating nests, which will result in the protection of over 100 nests and the release of thousands of hatchlings at Padre Island National Seashore. Volunteers will be recruited to patrol, locate, and protect nesting turtles and nests, and an extensive public outreach program will inform beach users of current issues and regulations. Through these efforts we may be celebrating an endangered species success story in 2016.



Park rangers release Kemp's ridley hatchlings.



Kemp's ridley hatchling makes its way out to sea.

Stewardship

Bio- Blitz/All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (National ATBI)

Acadia National Park
 Big Thicket National Preserve
 Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area
 Channel Islands National Park
 Death Valley National Park
 Point Reyes National Seashore
 Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
 Yosemite National Park
 Yellowstone National Park

States: California, Idaho, Maine, Montana,
 Massachusetts, Nevada, Texas, and Wyoming

Partners: Acadia Partners, Big Thicket Association,
 Island Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Death Valley
 Association, Tomales Bay Partnership, National
 Geographic, Yosemite Fund, and Yellowstone Park
 Foundation

Total Cost: \$1,955,000

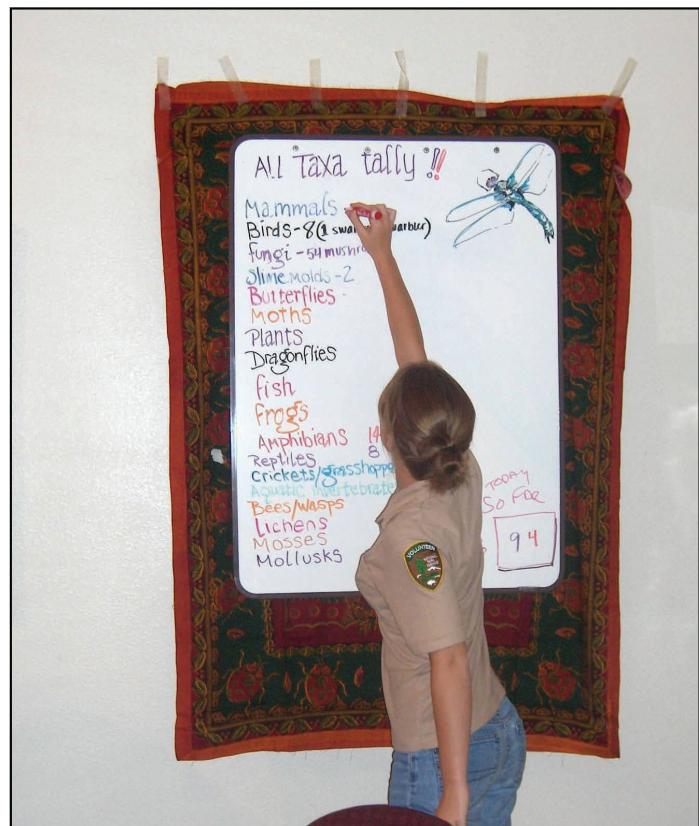
Bio- Blitz! Create Environmental Stewardship Through Discovery

This project will undertake an unprecedented examination of the wildlife and plant species that live in our national parks. The parks will seek yet unknown species in an effort to further the understanding of the country's wildlife and plant communities and to ignite a joy of science and discovery.

Bio- Blitzes or All- Taxa Biodiversity Inventories are projects that provide volunteers and students hands- on experience with scientists in the discovery of new species. Such efforts will lead to a greater understanding of the ecological shifts due to climate change or detect changes in forest health due to parasites and disease bacteria. This multi- park project will engage the public in the excitement of a nationally representative and scientifically credible tool to measure and compare the biodiversity throughout the National Park System.



Student showing off fungi.



Volunteer keeping tally of species identified.

Stewardship

Biscayne National Park

State: Florida

Partners: South Florida National Parks Trust, The Cordis Corporation, and The University of Miami

Total Cost: \$110,000

Coral Reef Rejuvenation: A Community Program

This community-based, volunteer project develops a large source of coral colonies needed for coral reef restoration and enhancement.

Coral fragments from boat collisions that were previously left as unsalvageable will be brought into controlled environments until they grow to a size that will enable them to survive the rigors of the natural environment and be used to restore coral reefs. Through this cutting-edge technology, Biscayne National Park will protect and revitalize the coral reef system off the Florida coast.



Coral “popsicles” in a coral nursery.



Students from the University of Miami preparing to tend the coral nursery.

Environmental Leadership

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

State: Alaska

Partner: Propane Education and Resource Council

Total Cost: \$250,000

Replace Kennecott Power Generation with Battery/Propane Hybrid

The park will remove constantly running diesel generators and replace them with battery/propane hybrid generators that increase efficiency and decrease maintenance.

This environmentally sustainable electrical production will result in no potential for soil contamination, 50% less noise, more efficient operations, and greater opportunity for interpretation about environmental stewardship. Operational costs associated with fuel handling will be reduced, and with battery storage and inverted power, electricity will be available at a level of service unattainable with the existing facility. The design guideline for this project will reduce run-times for the generator by 50%, with a corresponding increase in quiet time. Visitors will learn there are alternatives to diesel power generation that elevate the quality of operations and meet environmentally sustainable objectives.



The facility at Kennecott will be similar to this solar powered facility at West McCarthy.

Environmental Leadership

Mount Rainier National Park

State: Washington

Partner: Washington's National Park Fund

Total Cost: \$100,000

Install Solar Array at Ohanapecosh Maintenance/Ranger Building

Construct a ten-kilowatt grid-connected solar array on the roof of the Ohanapecosh Maintenance/Ranger Building. The solar array will offset rising electrical costs by using one of the better solar sites in the park to generate electricity.

The solar array will be connected to the commercial grid and will feed power *to the grid* when electrical production is higher than the power needs of the facility.



Mount Rainier National Park's solar-powered White River facility is similar to the one to come at Ohana.

Recreational Experience

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

State: Georgia

Partner: Cobb County, Georgia

Total Cost: \$1,200,000

Construct Noonday Creek Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail

A bicycle/pedestrian trail at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park will offer further opportunities for exploration and recreation for thousands of park visitors.

This project will construct an accessible bicycle/pedestrian trail that will provide access to the visitor center, Kennesaw Mountain battlefield and trailhead. The hard-surfaced multi-use trail will unite the park with Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area via the county multi-use trail network and enable visitors safe and enjoyable access to the park without having to walk or bike on busy highways.



Traffic congestion makes it difficult for community members to get to the park. A biking and walking trail would welcome visitors, provide healthful recreation, and reduce traffic.



Walker on existing park trail.

Recreational Experience

Rock Creek Park

State: District of Columbia

Partner: Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park,
Washington D.C.

Total Cost: \$9,000,000

Construct Wisconsin Avenue Plaza at Georgetown Waterfront Park

This project will transform a former parking lot into an active and welcoming landscaped park to provide an area to relax and recreate near the Potomac River. The park will contain water features and trails connecting the Capital Crescent Trail to the Rock Creek Trail and the National Mall.

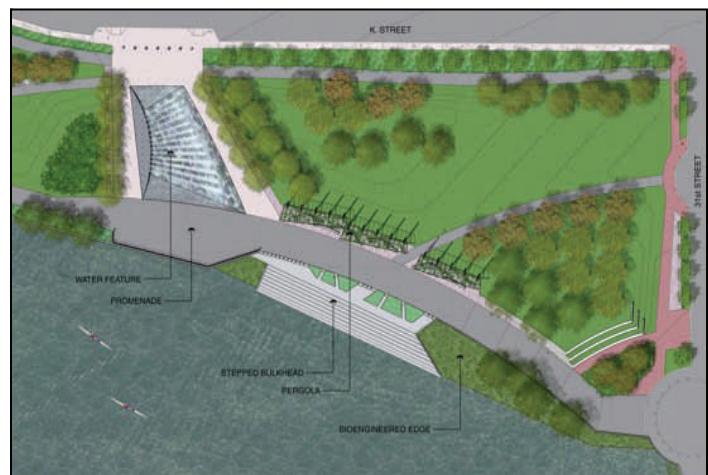
The state-of-the-art engineered bio-edge and rain garden will help improve filtration and water quality in the Potomac watershed. New trees and plants will help control erosion and reduce storm water runoff.

The park will provide steps to the river with seating capacity for more than 300 spectators to view rowers, boaters, and wildlife.

Completing the Georgetown Waterfront Park is an integral part of the totality of the Potomac riverfront experience in Washington, D.C. and will create the largest new park in the District of Columbia since 1976.



34th Street to Wisconsin Avenue- currently under Construction.



Wisconsin Avenue and eastward- awaiting construction.

Education

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

States: Oregon and Washington

Partner: Lewis and Clark National Park Association

Total Cost: \$60,000

Adopting the Class of 2016: "Students to Stewards"

"Students to Stewards" will adopt local students from the high school graduation class of 2016 and lay the groundwork to adopt future classes.

Almost 500 fourth-grade students, adopted by the park, will make annual visits to the park until their high school graduation in 2016. Various projects and activities will give these students of diverse backgrounds an opportunity to build stewardship through learning.

Students will become Junior Rangers; engage in river, forest and watershed conservation; participate in Native American cultural activities; hike along park trails; learn camping and wilderness skills; investigate National Park Service careers; and participate in service learning over the years until their graduation in 2016.



Ranger welcomes a class of students.



Boys in period costume.

Education

Acadia National Park

State: Maine

Partners: Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, Friends of Acadia, and Eastern National

Total Cost: \$362,000

Engaging Youth: No Child Left Inside Initiative

Building on Maine's first statewide "No Child Left Inside" workshop, this program will establish community partnerships to develop an educational curriculum at Acadia National Park designed to bring children to the park to experience and interact with nature on a continual and structured basis.

The "No Child Left Inside" initiative will enable teachers to attend park institutes, recruit qualified interns, and multiply the number of schools participating in residential programs. Centennial funds will promote use of interactive media and technology, continue a new Teacher- Ranger- Teacher summer program, establish community Junior Ranger events, and expand work with local colleges and universities.



Helping a park ranger with park research.



A new Junior Ranger shows off the trademark ranger hat.

Education

**Big Cypress National Preserve
Biscayne National Park
Dry Tortugas National Park
Everglades National Park**

State: Florida

Partners: South Florida National Parks Trust, Everglades Association, Friends of Big Cypress, and The League of Naples

Total Cost: \$346,780

Creating Future Park Stewards through Education

The South Florida National Parks will expand their ecosystem and curriculum- based education programs at no cost to underserved students by hiring staff, transporting students to the parks, and purchasing supplies to allow 50,000 local children to connect with their national parks.

The program will develop relationships with local schools; sponsor events, science fairs, classroom visits by rangers, traveling trunks, and interactive demonstrations; and provide resource immersion experiences (day and overnight camping trips) to the local parks to highlight the vast learning potential of the parks and to stimulate a lifelong love of nature.



Students participate in the cypress slough study.



Education program on the Anhinga Trail.

Education

Junior Ranger Program Examples

Colorado National Monument

State: Colorado

Partner: Colorado National Monument Association

Total Cost: \$13,360

A Junior Ranger explorer camp for underserved youth will be created. This program will reach 240 students, ages 9-11 with experiential, educational programs.

North Cascades National Park Service Complex

State: Washington

Partner: Washington's National Park Fund

Total Cost: \$23,000

Activity booklets for Junior Rangers will be produced and a new seasonal park ranger will be hired to support the Junior Ranger program.

Petrified Forest National Park

State: Arizona

Partner: Petrified Forest Museum Association

Total Cost: \$15,000

The Junior Ranger program will be expanded to a year-round basis and will include a free Junior Ranger patch for each participant.

Yosemite National Park

State: California

Partner: The Yosemite Fund

Total Cost: \$268,126

Happy Isles Nature Center will become the Happy Isles Junior Ranger Center. This project will upgrade exhibits, provide expanded curriculum for Junior Ranger programs, and recruit a new cadre of volunteers.



First Lady Laura Bush is a champion of the Junior Ranger program. Above Mrs. Bush congratulates two new Junior Rangers.



National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar lends her hat and encourages a Junior Ranger to think about the future.

Professional Excellence

National Mall & Memorial Parks

State: District of Columbia

Partner: Trust for the National Mall

Total Cost: \$2,200,000

21st Century Visitor Information Project- Implement Comprehensive Park Signage and Wayfinding

The park will fabricate and install additional and replacement entrance, vehicle, wayfinding, and interpretive signs to provide visitors a coordinated experience within the wide variety of historical and cultural parks in the greater Washington, D.C. area. By increasing the visibility of national parks within the city and providing a framework by which those parks can be linked, this project will help visitors discover all that the National Capital Region has to offer.

A design firm will be contracted to conduct inventory and condition assessment of existing signage and waysides within the National Mall & Memorial Parks. This includes the more than 1,000 acres of parkland that is an integral part of the fabric of the larger city.

The plan will include motor vehicle signs such as directional, parking and information, and any future park transit signs. Interpretive waysides, pedestrian direction signs, and National Park Service identity signage will be included and updated as needed.

Washington, D.C. is the ideal environment to incorporate state-of-the-art technology that would allow for the development of recognizable and easy to use interactive media and kiosks; touchable, tactile models of the National Mall; on-site orientation map/kiosks; and multi-lingual welcome components. Additional related media could include cell phone tours, podcasts, and the park traveler system/radio which can be geared to specific audiences to augment educational experiences.



Bicentennial-era wayfinding sign.



Temporary map station on the National Mall.

Professional Excellence

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Conservation Studies Institute

State: Vermont

Partners: Center for Park Management and National Parks Conservation Association

Total Cost: \$200,000

NPS Centennial Fellowship for Educators

This project will build a national leadership network that reflects the face of America and prepares the next generation of National Park Service leaders to face the complex issues that parks will have to address in the next century. By taking an active, coordinated role in developing leaders from within, the National Park Service is committed to addressing the needs of its parks, not just today, but tomorrow and well into the future.

A Roundtable Developmental Program will train a cadre of emerging and diverse leaders through a 2- year leadership curriculum and a mentoring program by the network of Leadership Roundtable superintendents. Transition Coaching for First- Time Superintendents, a one- year immersion program for first- time superintendents, will provide professional coaching to guide them in their new leadership role and assist them in assessing the current park context.

Curriculum for these closely integrated program components incorporates real- world problem solving, adaptive learning at both the individual and organizational levels, professional coaching, strategic thinking, and emotional intelligence applied to complex agency management.



Carriage Barn Visitor Center — home of the Conservation Studies Institute.



New superintendent helps to chart the course for the future of the National Park Service.